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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O Lord, our God, remove from our Senators all that is contrary to You. Take away all their doubts; cast off all resistance to Your leading. Instead, mold our lawmakers into Your image, giving them a willingness to sacrifice for others. Deliver them from anxiety. Infuse them with gratitude. Let Your peace guard their hearts and minds. May they always incline to Your will and walk in Your ways, as they dedicate themselves to the advancement of Your glory. Give them wisdom to do what is best for the safety, honor, and welfare of the Nation, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, purpose and piety may be established among us for all generations.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 27, 2007.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BENJAMIN L. CARDIN, a Senator from the State of Maryland, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CARDIN thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this morning we will resume consideration of S. 1639, the immigration legislation. As I said yesterday, cloture was filed on the bill. Any germane first-degree amendments need to be filed today by 1 p.m.

Also, another reminder to Members about the briefing by Admiral McConnell which will take place in S-407 and will run until 11:30 this morning. I will say to everyone, we could have votes during that period of time. I announced that last night. That is very possible, that we will have votes on this immigration bill. We are under postcloture rules. We are going to finish this legislation this week. And we very much appreciate the admiral coming down here, but, of course, he did not know what our schedule would be. But others may be inconvenienced because there very well could be votes.

Let me say a couple of things before we get to immigration. I would notify the two managers that I may have to have a short quorum call because there are some changes they are making on procedural matters. I think we need a couple of minutes to get that straightened out.

I sought yesterday to move to S. 1, the ethics and lobbying reform bill. There was a reason the bill came first. From the first day, we knew that all progress would depend on renewing the peoples' faith in the integrity of this institution, the Congress. This legislation which passed here in the Senate does just that: It prohibits lobbyists and those who hire lobbyists from giving gifts to lawmakers and staff; it prevents corporations and lobbyists from paying for questionable travel for Members and staff; it requires Senators to pay fair market value for chartered flights, putting an end to abuses of corporate travel; slows the revolving door by extending the ban on lobbying by former Members of Congress and senior staffers; prevents Senators from even negotiating for a job as a lobbyist until their successor has been elected; puts an end to the pay-to-play schemes that became notorious around here; it shines the light of day on lobbying activities by vastly increasing disclosure requirements; requires the Senate disclose all earmarks—this is the first time ever. We passed the ethics and lobbying reform bill here with overwhelming support from Senators on both sides of the aisle. The House did the same thing.

Yesterday, I asked consent to send our legislation to conference. The Republicans objected. I think it is interesting that on the same day this objection took place preventing us from moving forward to complete this legislation, there was yet another sign of how desperately needed this reform is. Yesterday, Stephen Griles, President Bush's former Interior Deputy Secretary, the No. 2 in charge, was sent to prison and fined for his corruption. This sentence came after Griles admitted to obstructing the investigation of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Now Mr. Griles will face justice for his contribution to disintegrating the peoples' trust in their Government. But now we have a chance to look forward, to stop the Jack Abramoffs, the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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